



# U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman

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## ***News Advisory***

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## **Sensenbrenner Highlights PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #13**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – With the PATRIOT Act set to expire in two-and-a-half weeks unless the Senate approves the reauthorization conference report, House Judiciary Committee Chairman F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-Wis.) today highlighted the thirteenth of the dozens of civil liberties safeguards included in the PATRIOT Act conference report approved last month by a bipartisan majority of the House and pending before the U.S. Senate.

### **PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #13 – Requiring Public Reporting of the Number of National Security Letters (NSLs):**

**At the request of Senator Leahy and other Senate Democratic conferees, the PATRIOT Act conference report includes – for the first time – public reporting on the aggregate number of NSLs requested for information about U.S. persons.** Despite the concerns of some that this public reporting requirement unnecessarily informs America's enemies of the sources and methods being used to thwart terrorism and spying, the conference report includes this civil liberty safeguard to assuage any concerns that the NSL authority is being abused. This civil liberty safeguard contained in the conference report does not exist under current law.

Originally created by a Democrat-led Congress and signed into law by President Carter, NSLs are a long-standing tool by which the FBI and other appropriate federal law enforcement officials request, for sensitive foreign spying or international terrorism investigations, subscriber information and toll billing records of a wire or electronic communication service provider, such as a phone company or AOL.

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